of tobacco by Karnataka considering that 80 per cent of its production is exported owing to the superior quality and inflow of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Government of Karnataka had sought Central Government's intervention for allowing registered and unregistered growers of Karnataka to sell their entire produce of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco by paying normal service charges during the crop season 2002-03 Government has allowed the registered growers to market their produce upto 55 million Kg under normal service charges. The unregistered growers have been allowed to market their produce of unauthorized tobacco by paying of Rs. 2/- per kg as extra fee plus 2 per cent of the sale proceeds of such tobacco as service charges.

(e) No, Sir.

EXPC's Offices in developed countries

1098. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council is planning to expand its offices in other developed countries of Europe and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when said offices are likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003

1099. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their produces due to introduction of a new provision in Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 resulting in the closure of many tea estates; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?